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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

July 26, 2024

RE: Changes to the 2024 GAAMPs for approval and use in 2025

Below is a summary of changes that the corresponding Advisory Committees are proposing to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development for adoption in the 2025 Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices.

General Updates Across ALL GAAMPs include:

- Annual review of applicable references to ensure up to date links, formatting for readability.

Summary of *Care of Farm Animals GAAMPs* proposed changes:

Minor reference updating and removal of ambiguity for clarity.

Under Sheep and Goats, addition of Animal Identification requirements (pg. 66)

Animal Identification: Sheep and goats are required to follow federal and state regulations for officially identifying their animals as part of the national scrapie eradication program (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/umr_scrapie.pdf).

Summary of *Site Selection for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs* proposed changes:

The Site Selection GAAMPs were reorganized for readability, clarity.

High Public Use Areas language was moved to under definitions (pg. 6):

High Public Use Areas - Are locations with high density of individuals during certain periods of time, either time of day or time of year. High public use areas are hospitals; churches; licensed commercial elder care facilities; licensed commercial childcare facilities; school, government, commercial, professional, office or retail buildings; publicly accessible parks or campgrounds (excluding terrestrial and aquatic trails).

Clarity was added to the "Site Review and Verification Process" identifying application requirements (pg. 10):

Site Review and Verification Process

A livestock facility with less than 50 Animal Unit(s) (AUs) is not required to complete the entire site review and verification process described in **Appendix A**. Instead, the livestock facility must submit a complete [GAAMPs Review Application](#) form for determination of conformance. **This application must complete Sections 1, 2 and 3 at a minimum.**

Summary of *Farm Market GAAMPs* proposed changes:

Added clarification under Farm Market definition (pg2):

At least 50 percent of the farm products offered must be produced on and by the affiliated farm measured by retail floor space during peak production season, or 50 percent of the average gross sales for up to the previous five years or as outlined in a business plan.

Added clarification to PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM MARKET: Parking and Driveways, Signage sections (pg. 3):

Parking and Driveways

Parking and driveway surfaces may be paved, vegetative, ground, gravel, ~~pavement~~, or other unpaved suitable material. ~~However, other parking and driveway requirements must comply with all applicable regulations.~~

Signage

~~The operator of the farm market must comply with all applicable state and federal regulations for signs.~~ A minimum of one roadside sign is allowed. ~~pursuant to local sign ordinance setbacks, lighting, height, and size requirements.~~

Added APPENDICES, Appendix A: Considerations for Farm Markets. The intention is to provide reference and education regarding topics surrounding Farm Markets, but the language is not intended to be utilized for determination of conformance. (pg. 4, 5)

Appendix A: Considerations for Farm Markets

Statement of Intent

Appendix A is explicitly intended as a reference for informational and educational purposes only. Information contained in Appendix A is not intended to be utilized by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Right to Farm Program as part of any Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) conformance determination process.

GAAMPs Conformance and Other Regulatory Permits

Depending on the nature and location of a GAAMPs conformant farm market operation, other local, state and/or federal regulations may still apply. It is the responsibility of the farm market owner or their representative acting on the owner's behalf to contact the appropriate regulatory authorities to determine if additional permits for compliance are required prior to beginning any activity or construction.

MDARD Right to Farm Program does not have authority to determine applicability of, or compliance with, any regulation other than conformance to the management practices described within the GAAMPs.

Non-Farm Product Sales, Processing and Miscellaneous Activities

Michigan Right to Farm Act provides nuisance protection for farms and farm operations in conformance with GAAMPs including the production of farm products and the marketing and sales of farm products at farm markets. This protection may not extend to sales of non-farm products (e.g., hats, t-shirts, jewelry, etc.), on-site processing of farm products (e.g., baking pies, brewing hard cider, etc.) or other on-farm activities

(e.g., wedding/event barns, bed & breakfast/lodging, restaurants, glamping, etc.). A GAAMPs-conformant farm market operation may still be subject to other local, state and/or federal regulations (see *GAAMPs Conformance and Other Regulatory Permits* above).

Signage

Farm Markets GAAMPs allows for a minimum of one roadside sign; however, this sign (and any additional signs, if permitted) may be subject to other local ordinance requirements (e.g., setbacks, lighting, height, and size)

Agritourism

'Agritourism' currently has no legal definition or recognition in Michigan law. Activities commonly identified as, and/or associated with, agritourism may or may not comply with GAAMPs. These activities must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to additional local, state and/or federal regulations (see *GAAMPs Conformance and Other Regulatory Permits* above).

Resources

There are many professional resources available to assist farmers, government officials and others navigating Right to Farm and GAAMPs-related issues. Resources include, but are not limited to, MDARD Right to Farm Program, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, and Michigan Agritourism Association.

Summary of *Manure Management and Utilization and GAAMPs* proposed changes

The chair retired, still working on identifying a new chair. Reviewed references and weblinks.

Summary of *Pest Utilization and Pest Control GAAMPs* proposed changes:

The chair retired, a new chair was identified, appointed. Reviewed references and weblinks.

Summary of *Irrigation Water Use GAAMPs* proposed changes:

No changes.

Summary of *Nutrient Utilization and GAAMPs* proposed changes

The chair retired, and a new chair was identified, appointed. Reviewed references and weblinks.

Summary of *Cranberry Production GAAMPs* proposed changes:

No changes.